

Wedded Bride 1131

Chapter 1131 Don't Be Afraid

Sheryl dialed Duncan's number and told him that she had done what he had asked.

"Good," he replied with a grin.

"I did what you asked. Please give my children back," Sheryl negotiated, feeling uneasy.

As she was waiting for his reply, anxiety drowned her and she couldn't breathe.

"Relax, Mrs. Lu. You will see your children soon," Duncan responded in a lazy tone.

He still hadn't realized what a serious mistake he had made by kidnapping the kids and demanding ransom. He was yet to connect the dots and figure out that what he was doing was a crime punishable by law.

Perhaps he was taking it easy because the kids he had abducted were obedient, and Sheryl had agreed to his conditions too easily.

He got everything he wanted without getting into any trouble so far.

But this wouldn't be over until Vivi received the money.

He had asked Sheryl to put the money in the mall where Vivi used to work.

When they had first met, Vivi was a shopping assistant in a clothing store and Duncan had just

returned from abroad. He had gone into the shop to get new clothes and had encountered Vivi there.

He had become a regular at the store after their encounter. As the two often met, he developed a crush

on the young girl. Duncan was new in Y City, but Vivi knew the place very well. Even though she was

just an assistant in a shop, she was pretty good looking. And as a result, he hang out with her.

He knew that love was not the reason why they chose to be together, and he didn't care.

He knew that Vivi didn't care either.

But somehow, his heart ached when Vivi decided to leave him for someone else.

It was not until Vivi hooked up with another rich man that he realized his real feelings towards her. He

was hopelessly in love with her, even though he knew that she had only agreed to go out with him for

his money.

The one who was more invested in a relationship was always the loser.

Duncan admitted that he had lost the game.

But he hated to lose Vivi that way. He couldn't let her go, especially after he had witnessed his ex-

girlfriend flirting with another man.

He was angry.

He was angry that Vivi had been ungrateful to him and she had forgotten that he had given her a better job and a life. To hit the nail even deeper, she never loved him and dumped him like he meant nothing to her.

So when Sheryl had agreed to pay the ransom, adding to the fact that he would get his job back, he heaved a sigh of relief knowing that he could finally lead a comfortable life. It even crossed his mind that Vivi would regret breaking up with him if she learned about all this.

So, he had come up with an idea after Sheryl had agreed to pay the ransom.

He called his ex-girlfriend. When the call connected, he heard another man's voice from the other end of the line and it enraged him.

When she picked up the call, he told her that he would get his job back. Besides that, he said that his former boss was giving him a fifty million compensation for firing him without reason.

Fifty million dollars was a vast amount of money for Vivi.

Besides, she was aware that the man she was hooking up with wouldn't spend a penny for her and that he had nothing but sweet words for her.

Since Duncan was going back to Tarsan Corporation and would also get a huge sum of money as compensation, she thought it would be best for her to get back with him. She figured that she could get more from her ex-boyfriend.

So when Duncan proposed that he would get back together with Vivi on the condition that she found the money in the mall for him, she agreed without a second thought.

"I did everything you asked. What else do you want from me?" Sheryl asked in a desperate tone. She was unsure whether the kidnapper was going to ask for more.

"You said that you had put the money where I asked you to put it, but I haven't received it yet. I will release your children after I verify that everything is in order. You have my word on that," Duncan promised.

However, Duncan's promise didn't set Sheryl's mind at ease.

Although she didn't buy his words, she couldn't negotiate with him.

The kidnapper still had her children, after all.

She wondered whether she knew the man on the other end of the phone.

However, none of that mattered. To get her children back, she would do anything he asked of her.

"Okay. After you check the money, you will release them, won't you?" Sheryl yielded.

"Of course, I will," Duncan said before hanging up.

"What did he say?" Charles asked, in a hushed tone.

"He said he would release Clark and Shirley after he gets the money," Sheryl replied, frustrated. She wore a despondent look, staring blankly ahead.

"Don't worry, Sher. You must be strong. It's gonna be okay. Besides, we have Isla and the police officers on our side. Everything is gonna be fine," he comforted.

"Do you really think Clark and Shirley will come back to us safe and sound, Charles? I'm so scared," Sheryl said in a trembling voice, fixing her helpless eyes on him. She was on the verge of breaking down. But she restrained herself for she hadn't gotten her kids back yet.

"Yes, I do. Nothing will happen to them," Charles nodded, locking his firm eyes on hers.

"Let's go. If we stay here, they might not show up to take the money." He held Sheryl's hand tightly as they walked towards the exit.

No sooner had they reached the exit than Sheryl got a call from Isla.

"Hello, Sher. What's going on? Why haven't you left the mall yet?" Isla inquired anxiously. She was worried that Sheryl and Charles might have got tangled in some desperate fight with the kidnapper inside the mall.

"We are walking out now," Sheryl replied solemnly.

"Did you see anyone take the money?" Isla asked eagerly.

"No, I didn't. But I think someone will come for it soon," Sheryl replied.

"Okay. We are waiting for someone to show up. When you see me, pretend like you don't know me. I am here with several police officers in civilian clothes. Once we spot the person with the suitcase, we will catch him," said Isla. There was confidence and excitement in her voice.

"Hmm..." Sheryl's voice was low.

Although she didn't think that they could easily capture the person sent by the kidnapper, she nodded

her head when she heard Isla's plan.

Chapter 1132 The Large Ransom

"Isla asked us not to talk to her and pretend that we didn't know her when we see her outside, just in case the kidnapper's people are around," Sheryl said to Charles.

"Okay," Charles agreed.

But he figured that there was no need for such precautions. Isla's face was all over the TV during the live press conference. People already knew about her relationship with Sheryl. So, if the person sent by the kidnapper was here, Isla's presence would alert them.

Even though he knew this, he didn't retort because he had some sound speculations regarding the kidnapping.

He assumed that the one who had abducted his children hadn't yet discovered that he had called the police. Moreover, he even surmised that the kidnapper hadn't realized that he was making a serious mistake.

The kidnapper's initial motive was to make Sheryl admit that she was having an affair even though it wasn't true.

Sheryl didn't hesitate and agreed immediately. After she followed his demands, the abductor was supposed to release the children.

But, the criminal backed out because he noticed Sheryl's absolute obedience.

As a result, the perpetrator decided to demand the large ransom.

Imagining Sheryl as the meek type, the criminal was probably certain that she would agree with his conditions. She brought fifty million dollars in cash and put it in the location as he had instructed.'

As Charles analyzed the situation, he speculated that the abductor must have let his guard down seeing that he had proposed to exchange the money in a shopping mall.

It might have looked like a wise decision because it was a public place with a crowd and the kidnapper might not be exposed easily.

However, the kidnapper had ignored the critical detail that today was the mall's anniversary.

Most people might not think that it was a big deal.

There were more customers than usual in the mall. It might have seemed like a good idea to exchange the money in the crowded place. But the criminal neglected the fact that too many people might cause chaos.

The shopping mall would have definitely asked for a SWAT team to keep the peace in case of emergency during the event. Suspicious people would surely be targeted by the police in such events.

If the SWAT team caught someone carrying fifty million in cash, they would be in immense trouble.

If the criminal was on full alert, he wouldn't have made such a blind mistake.

After taking all of this into consideration, Charles ruled out the possibility that the abductor had chosen this shopping mall because of the public nature of the mall. He came to the conclusion that the criminal or the person he had sent must know the place very well.

He guessed that the person sent by the kidnapper was a frequent visitor to this place.

Such an individual might not arouse the staff's suspicion with a huge suitcase.

As Charles analyzed the whole situation calmly, he and Sheryl exited the mall. Isla and several plain clothes officers lurked in the corner outside the shopping mall.

As Sheryl was about to tell Charles that they should move away from the market, she heard a familiar female voice.

"I told you! I have a full schedule today." Sheryl immediately recognized the voice as Vivi's.

She had slapped Sheryl hard across the face only a couple of days ago. So it was impossible that Sheryl would forget her high-pitched voice so soon.

"How about I come over tomorrow?" Vivi proposed curtly, rolling her eyes.

She was talking on the phone while heading towards the shopping mall. She didn't look suspicious,

except for her quick footsteps.

But no one paid extra attention to Vivi. She was just a short-tempered woman who was hurrying to the mall. They didn't suspect her movements.

"What are you looking at, Sher? Do you know her?" Charles asked in a puzzled tone as he looked at the girl Sheryl was staring at. She was wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans.

"Yes, I know her. She slapped me while I was in Tarsan Corporation," Sheryl blurted out. She was caught by surprise at Vivi's presence there. 'It's such a coincidence that I am seeing her here again, ' she thought.

But she didn't give much thought into it. It didn't dawn on her that Vivi might have something to do with the kidnapping.

"Tarsan Corporation?" Charles repeated, as he narrowed his eyes.

"Yes. She was in a relationship with Duncan, and Rachel had fired Duncan because of me. At that time, he hated me so much..." Sheryl stopped short. As she was telling Charles about what had happened between her and Duncan, a horrible thought crossed her mind.

'Vivi is Duncan's mistress and Duncan hates me for getting him fired. Is it possible that Duncan kidnapped my children?' she thought in shock.

Charles had the same suspicion. Without saying anything to Sheryl, he ran towards Isla.

"Follow that girl who wears a white T-shirt and blue jeans. She just entered the mall. She is the one sent by the kidnapper," Charles gasped, turning to the police officers.

"Are you sure?" one of the officers asked as he gave him a skeptical glance.

Isla and the officers had seen Vivi walk into the mall, but none of them had suspected that she had anything to do with the kidnapping.

She looked composed.

No one would have believed that she was on her way to collect a ransom.

"Yes, I am!" Charles said with absolute certainty.

"All right! You two follow that woman into the mall. She was wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans. Wait

until she picks up the suitcase, understand?" the officer in charge said to his subordinates.

"Yes, Captain. Got it!" The two officers walked briskly towards the shopping mall like a couple of

customers.

"How do you know it is her, Mr. Lu? She doesn't look like a bad person," asked Isla, looking at Charles with a perplexed expression.

At that moment, Sheryl joined them. Fixing her gaze on Isla, she asked, "Do you remember I told you that someone slapped me in Tarsan Corporation?"

"Of course, I do! You said that it was Duncan's mistress," Isla replied indignantly.

"Wait..." she said as she collected her thoughts. "Are you saying that woman is Duncan's mistress?" she asked, staring at Sheryl with her eyes wide open in surprise.

"Yes, that's her," Sheryl nodded.

Isla understood what was going on.

"How about we go inside and see what is going on?" she suggested, looking at Sheryl and Charles.

"Please. I figure that that woman knows you, so it'd be better if you stay here. Otherwise, you might alert her. Please trust my men. They will not let her escape," the officer in charge reassured them.

"Okay," Charles agreed with a slight nod.

So did Sheryl. But she nodded not because she believed his words.

At a loss, she thought she had no other choice but to believe the police.

As they waited outside anxiously, the two officers entered the mall.

Chapter 1133 His Exact Whereabouts

It was the peak hour at the mall, and finding the suspect was like searching for a needle in the

haystack. Two policemen entered combing the entire place with tactful vigilance while following the

instructions through their headsets. One of them said, "Warren, you go there. I will cover this area."

"Okay," replied the cop named Warren.

They made eye contact and nodded their heads in agreement with each other before dispersing to the

two different areas. They took nimble steps as they made their way through the crowd trying to make

sure that they didn't make their suspect alert about their presence.

"Where did you put the money? I can't find it," Vivi demanded over the phone in a hushed yet agitated

voice. She took short and brisk steps, looking here and there as she spoke to Duncan over the phone,

oblivious to the impending danger that was approaching her fast with every passing moment.

"It's just kept at the basement. Please search for it carefully," replied Duncan. He had no clue that Vivi

had already been watched and followed.

"Okay," Vivi answered briefly before she hung up.

"Warren, it must be this woman. As soon as she lays her hands to that luggage case, you just move fast and subdue her. Do you understand?" The instruction came through the headset.

"Yes, sir," Warren briefly replied.

Vivi took short and brisk steps towards the basement, her eyes roving around to spot the clue that would take her to the money. She felt light-hearted as she started assessing her situation in her mind.

Even though Duncan showed that he had forgiven her, she was still in touch with her rich boyfriend.

Hence, even if one of them broke up with her, she still had the other one to fall back upon. Whatever happened, she had nothing to lose.

'Duncan, you bastard. There isn't any black luggage case. You must be kidding me, ' Vivi cursed

inwardly. She checked each and every object that came in her way to spot the fifty million that she was looking for.

She literally combed the entire basement minutely, but the luggage case was just nowhere to be found.

She was growing increasingly impatient. Just then, as she turned her head, her eyes fell on a set of

black luggage cases on the display booth of a luggage shop. Her eyes widened as she had a strong

intuition that the luggage case she was looking for must be one of these cases.

She stood there pondering over the situation for a while. 'All I have to do is to identify the right luggage

case,' she thought to herself. She touched and felt each and every luggage case on the display until

she laid her hand on the right one. She tried to move it and felt it was a little heavy compared to the

other cases. She tapped on it twice and tried to lift it up. However, she found it too heavy to be lifted.

Then she applied a little force and used her muscle strength to lift it up, but failed in her attempt. She

tried again and again and yet again till she managed to muster all her strength to lift the luggage case

up. She rolled up her eyes and cursed Duncan as drops of sweat appeared on her forehead. She

struggled to get her breathing pattern to normal and then started dragging the luggage case once

again. 'Even if Duncan wanted to surprise me, he need not take this convoluted path,' she thought to

herself as she gasped for breath.

As bulky as the luggage case was, it was also equally heavy to move. 'What did he put inside it? Could

fifty million weigh that much?' she thought as she pulled the luggage case. And just then, a voice came

from behind that made her freeze at the spot.

"Don't move!" a stern yell came from behind her back. At the same time, the two policemen ran quickly toward Vivi and took her on the gunpoint.

"Don't move! Put your hands up!" As she released the handle of the luggage case and put her hands up, one of the cops just came from behind, clasped both her hands and tucked them at her back.

"Ouch! That hurts. Who are you?" Vivi began to moan as she struggled to set herself free. She was completely flabbergasted to be encountered by two strangers in this manner.

"Who are we? We are police!" Warren replied in a stern voice. He then took the handcuff out from his pocket and clipped it smoothly around her wrist. "You have to go to the police station with us now," he added.

"Police?" Vivi was taken aback. Her jaw dropped and her eyes popped out. "Sir, I haven't done anything to break the law. How can you harass an innocent person like me in this way?" Vivi tried to defend herself.

"An innocent person? If you are an innocent person, why are you here? Don't you know what it is in the luggage case?" Warren interrogated in a severe voice.

"There is cash in the luggage case. It is a gift that my boyfriend sends to me. Sir, I really appreciate the

selfless dedication that you put into your job despite the low wages. I think there must have been some misunderstanding between us. If you don't mind, I can spare some money for you." Vivi began to bribe the policemen not to arrest her.

"Stop flapping your gums! Move!" Warren snapped at her. Then he turned his face placing his finger on the Bluetooth device and reported to the leader.

"Sir, we have completed the mission. The suspect is under our grip at the moment."

"Great job. Now take her out. You go to help them there now."

"Yes, sir."

As they were hard pressed for time, they decided to interrogate Vivi in the police car instead of taking her to the police station.

"Speak it out. Where is Duncan now?" The policeman came straight to the point without beating about the bush.

"Sir, I have no clue about what you are asking me. Why are you treating me like a criminal? I have not been involved in any law-breaking activity. If Duncan has done something, why don't you just take him

in the custody? It has nothing to do with me at all," Vivi managed to explain to the cops. She really didn't have any clue about what was going on. As it was, she had to toil hard to identify the money. And as soon as she found the money, she got caught by the cops.

"If you really don't know what Duncan has done, where did the money come from?"

"I have told you this money is sent by Duncan to me as a gift. He told me these was the compensation that his company gave him..."

"You mean to say, he convinced you that this money was his compensation? Do you believe in what he said? I will tell you the truth. This is the ransom money that Duncan got from blackmailing an innocent person. If you don't want yourself to be put behind the bars for being involved with him, you'd better cooperate with us and let us know all you know!"

"What? Blackmail?" Vivi couldn't believe what she had heard. Her eyes widened up and all the blood seemed to be draining out of her face. She shuddered at every word uttered by the cops.

What she knew was absolutely different from what the cops told her.

Vivi had made great efforts to win over Duncan. How could such a rich man be a kidnapper? The image she had in her mind for Duncan came shattering.

Looking at Vivi's face as it became as pale as a sheet of paper, the cops were convinced that she wasn't lying and told her about the whole matter in vivid detail. Then the policeman continued to instruct her, "You call Duncan right now and tell him that you have got the money. And it is the exact fifty million as per his words. Then you ask him where he is right now and how you can reach him."

"Okay, okay. I will call him up now. Sir, trust me, I had no clue about all these. I'm innocent. He cheated me. He asked me to pick the money for him. Furthermore, he bluffed that the money was a gift for me, so I..." Vivi tried to explain again.

She looked completely petrified and shuddered at the thought of being punished along with Duncan.

Hence, she thought that it was important to make everything clear to the cops.

And true it was! Vivi was completely in dark about Duncan's misdoings. It would be completely unfair to get her involved in this.

"Stop talking nonsense," the cop blurted as he raised his eyebrows. "What's wrong with you? We are hard pressed for time. If you still waste our time and don't call him up now, we can convict you of covering up a criminal!"

Vivi shook her head vehemently and pleaded, "Please don't do that, sir. I will call him up right now." As the cops released her hands, Vivi immediately took her phone out and dialed Duncan's number.

"Vivi, how is going? Have you got the money?" Duncan hastily asked over the line. He got excited when he saw Vivi's name flashing over his mobile screen.

He narrowed his eyes and let out a crooked smile. He felt happy as he could see everything coming back within his control. After getting the money, Vivi would undoubtedly come back to him.

Then all the things would be settled as per his plans and he could regain his dignity. At that time he could even break up with Vivi after he got his job back.

Duncan had finally been able to turn the table around for himself. Now, it was his turn to discard that woman. Moreover, he could even order Vivi to return all that he had sent to her.

He wanted to leave her absolutely empty-handed.

He wanted to see her broke and tattered in every way.

That was exactly what Vivi deserved.

"Yes, I have got the money. It is truly fifty million bucks in there. Duncan, you are so kind to me. You are so generous that you sent me so much money. I want to see you now." Vivi kept her voice normal and

spoke in an indulging manner to make sure that Duncan could not make out the real purpose behind the call.

Even Duncan could not smell anything fishy. After all, she had the money in her hand.

"Okay. But I'm not at home at the moment. You can reach my house now and I'll be back soon," replied Duncan.

"You are not at home? So where are you now?" Vivi asked typically like a possessive and speculative girlfriend who always demanded to have information about each and every move her boyfriend made.

Even this question sounded very normal to Duncan.

"I will tell where I am once I come back. I can't make it clear to you over the phone." Duncan wanted to get back home and check his money.

"Duncan, be honest with me, is there some other woman with you? You are not the type of man who would not give me a clear answer." Vivi pretended to be jealous and very craftily tried to fish for Duncan's whereabouts.

"How could there be some woman beside me? I'm in the mountains right now!" Duncan got irritated

and blurted out in an instant. Vivi always seemed to be so madly and deeply in love with him. How could she doubt his loyalty to their love?

"What are you doing in the mountain?" Vivi brushed aside his irritation and probed deeper. With every reply that she received from Duncan, she became confident that her pretension worked.

"I have some work here. Otherwise, why should I come here?"

"I don't believe your words. You must be lying to me. Unless you tell me at which spot you are at the moment, I will take your fifty million and go away. And I promise that you will never be able to find me."

Vivi started baiting him with the money as she knew the money was important to him now.

"You...how could you be such jealous? Okay, I will tell you. I'm at the Beauty Mountain Villa on the Green Mountain North Street. The Beauty Mountain Villa is that deserted one." Duncan's voice echoed into her ears as he hastily blurted out about his whereabouts to Vivi out of fear of losing the money. Vivi heaved a sigh as she looked at the cops gesturing them that she had been able to extract the information from Duncan. The cops softened their eyes on her and let out a sigh of relief as well.

Chapter 1134 Searching

After hearing this, the SWAT team quickly instructed its men to follow the address given over the telephone and start searching.

Everything was going smoothly according to their original plan.

This person who was coming to get money would be a really important breakthrough. Thanks to Vivi, they not only knew who the kidnapper was, but also his specific location.

As long as Duncan hadn't lied to Vivi, he must be with Clark and Shirley.

On the phone, Clark had said that he was in a very far place that was difficult to get to.

These two points coincided with each other, so the police concluded that Duncan likely hadn't lied.

As long as they worked fast, attacked quickly and didn't let Duncan find them, they would be able to safely rescue Shirley and Clark from the unused Beauty Mountain Villa.

"What are you doing there alone?" Vivi tried to sound surprised, pretending that she didn't know anything.

"I've got business to do here. Alright, don't talk too much. I'll be back in a minute. You wait for me."

Duncan's responses made it clear that he had not found any abnormalities in Vivi's demeanor throughout their conversation.

He wanted Vivi to know that he had money and power, and then he would dump her.

Duncan knew that whatever he and Vivi had together would eventually come to an end.

Slowly he was gaining his power back, step by step. He had money now, and would have a lot more in the near future, after which he planned on breaking off all relations with Vivi.

Hearing that Duncan was trying to end the call, Vivi didn't know what to say next. The police handed her a piece of paper that told her what to say.

Reading the words on the paper, Vivi said, "Duncan, I want to see you. Please wait for me there." Then she paused, took a deep breath, and tried to make her voice sound more charming. "Duncan, we haven't seen each other for a long time. I know I was bad before, but I've been seriously reflecting on my mistakes these days."

"Really? What are you reflecting on?" Duncan was both surprised and skeptical.

He really didn't believe that Vivi would admit she'd done anything wrong.

After all, would a snobbish woman like Vivi realize that she was wrong for chasing money?

"Duncan, I admit that I was wrong to leave you. At that time, I was afraid that you would lose all your money and that I'd have to suffer through a hard life with you. You know, I was poor throughout my childhood, so I was really afraid!" These words were not written on the paper, but came from Vivi

herself.

"But since leaving you, I've been missing you all the time. You're the first thing I think of when I wake up and the last thing I think of before I go to sleep. You are everywhere!

I don't know how long I can wait to see you. I really can't hold on much longer. I miss you every day!"

Vivi stuttered as tears ran down her cheeks.

Vivi's words were having a big impact on Duncan, who had suffered so many grievances and really needed some comforting. What Vivi was saying to him now was making him feel better. Duncan went on to say, "It's no use saying that now. You still chose someone else over me!"

The most painful part of being abandoned by Vivi was the fact that she did it when he was unsuccessful and down.

"I regret it very much. I know I was wrong and I hope you can forgive me. I'm in the taxi now and I'll meet you soon. Please wait for me!" Vivi said anxiously.

"You're already in the taxi?" Apparently Vivi's quick move caught Duncan a little off guard.

"Yes..." Vivi was afraid of Duncan being suspicious, because she hadn't walked around or even panted

while on the phone.

It would seem impossible for her to have called, and gotten into, a taxi amidst the phone call.

But Vivi had responded quickly enough that Hoyle didn't have much time to think about it.

After all, she knew Duncan very well. She went on to say, "When I called you, I was already sitting in the taxi. I was carrying such a large suitcase which was very inconvenient for me to move. And I didn't know where I should go! That's why I called you."

It was true that Duncan was suspicious, but Vivi's explanations made him feel at ease again.

"Driver, go to Beauty Mountain Villa on North Green Hill Street, please." Vivi pretended to talk to the driver.

"Okay," one of the policemen responded, taking on the role of the driver. Then, he started the car, and

Vivi's lie was perfectly covered up.

Duncan said, "It takes at least an hour to get here from the mall. You're not afraid of getting tired?"

"As long as I can see you, nowhere is too far!" Vivi responded lovingly, making Duncan smile to himself.

"Well, take care of yourself," he replied.

At this moment, Duncan felt his frigid heart start to melt.

He even thought that maybe if Vivi was really aware of her mistakes, he could actually forgive her.

She belonged to him!

"Okay, you wait for me." And with that, Vivi finally hung up the phone.

"You can see that I'm not with him, right? I don't even know where he is, let alone what he's doing," Vivi immediately said to the policemen.

"That doesn't matter right now. What you need to do is cooperate with us so that we can solve the case smoothly, okay?" Not wanting to press the issue, the policeman assured Vivi.

"Alright, dear officer, I will cooperate with you," Vivi nodded.

"Please don't address us like that. We are all adults. Speaking to us in that way will not make us more inclined to help you."

Chapter 1135 Greed

"No, no. I just get a little nervous when I see you. When I was a child, my parents often told me to listen to the police and go to the police in case of difficulties, so I..." Vivi started to explain.

But the leader interrupted her. "Shut your nonsense!

Now listen. Warren, you get out of the car. Find a taxi and then track Duncan with Vivi," the leader ordered.

"Yes, Sir!" Warren immediately opened the door and got out of the car to find a taxi.

"Baron, Stanley. You are with me. We'll follow their taxi from a distance."

"Yes, Sir!" the two men nodded.

"Sir, what about our brothers who went to look for them? Should we call them back?" one of the policemen asked.

"Ask them to go to Beauty Mountain Villa. Let's make sure that the suspect is caught alive without bringing any harm to the children."

"Yes, Sir."

Soon after, Warren came back with a borrowed taxi. "Vivi, get in this car."

Vivi nodded in agreement. As she was getting out of the police car, she asked, "Sir, do I need to take the suitcase with me?"

"Bring the suitcase, but not like that," said Warren.

"Not like that? What do you mean?" Vivi was clueless.

Warren turned around and fixed his eyes on a pile of bricks not too far away. He smiled. "Take the money out of the suitcase and put those bricks inside it."

Vivi looked at the bricks and then nodded at him. She was ready to do whatever the police asked her to. She wanted to live a good life; that was all she ever wanted. Even if Duncan was arrested, she could still be with her current boyfriend.

Although that man was too stingy to get her anything fancy, he was still better than a kidnapper like Duncan.

Vivi had always been a realistic woman.

She never denied her purpose, and naturally never gave up on her path to a good life.

As long as she could achieve her goal, she would do whatever was needed.

"Charles, what should we do now?" Sheryl asked anxiously. Sheryl wanted to go with the police, but she was afraid that Duncan might hurt Shirley and Clark if he saw her and Charles.

"You will be coming with us and you will stay in the car." The leader had heard Sheryl's question and responded decisively before Charles could answer.

Sheryl did not immediately understand the police's arrangement. However, as Charles maintained a calm and clear mind, he knew the reason why the police asked them to stay clear.

He figured that the police were probably afraid that the children might get into some danger, or Duncan might go back on his word. If that happened, they could adjust their strategy according to the situation and deal with the kidnapper. In such a scenario, they would be a liability to them.

"All right," Charles agreed.

"Sher, don't be afraid. The police will rescue Clark and Shirley. The children will be all right. Let's follow their plan and stay with them. We will be informed of what is happening if we stick to them. Don't you think so?" he consoled Sheryl.

"Yeah, I guess," Sheryl said.

"Hasn't the kidnapper called you yet?" the leader asked Sheryl as they got into the car.

"Not yet." Sheryl stared at her cell phone screen, but it remained silent.

"Sir, should I make the call?" Sheryl knew that Duncan had given Vivi permission to go see him, but he would never let her see Shirley and Clark.

If he had to keep the children away from Vivi's sight, where would he hide them?

Sheryl thought that he might call her and ask her to go to a designated place to pick up the children.

If he wasn't planning on doing that, then what was he thinking? Sheryl had a very bad feeling.

"No, don't do that. Vivi just hung up. If you call him now, he'll probably get suspicious. Vivi's words have already aroused some suspicion in him. At a time like this, we can't take any more risks," the leader replied. "Wait for a while. He'll call you."

"Are you sure? What if he doesn't?" Sheryl asked nervously.

"I'm sure that he'll call you in another five minutes. Despite what his plans are, that is, whether to transfer the children or to hand them over, he will call you with instructions." The leader calmly judged on the basis of his past experiences with criminals.

"But..." Sheryl was unconvinced. She was worried sick about her kids.

"Sher, we should act as required by the police," Charles said, his voice soft and firm. Sheryl nodded silently and they waited for the kidnapper's call.

Time passed at a snail's pace.

"Warren, slow down and allow enough time for our brothers to get in there and find the location of the

children before you and Vivi go in," the leader ordered through the headset.

"Yes, Sir." Warren broke and drove the car very slowly.

"Mark, what's the situation there?"

"We have reached Beauty Mountain Villa. The children are inside. I just heard their voice. They are not in any danger at the moment. But it is not clear how many kidnappers are in there or whether they have weapons."

"You have five minutes to get the information. Move!"

"Yes, Sir!"

Duncan was in a good mood. He stared at the two children in front of him. It was undeniable that they had brought him good luck.

But humans are greedy by nature. Duncan realized that he could squeeze out so much more if he kept the children. His heart became darker.

He craved for more. If he had more money, he and Vivi could have a better life. He immediately regretted that he had asked for so little.

'Why didn't I ask for more?' he thought, forgetting his initial reasoning for sticking to small numbers. 'I

could have asked a hundred million.'

Moreover, he knew that Sheryl was very obedient, and if he asked again, she would give him anything unconditionally.

He didn't even care that Vivi was already on her way there. He decided to take the risk.

Once again, he tied up Clark and Shirley, and put on their blindfolds and masks.

"Uncle, what are you doing? Didn't you just say that you were going to let us go?" Clark had seen the look in Duncan's eyes, and he knew that his plans had changed for the worse.

Chapter 1136 We Found Him

Human beings were all greedy!

And Duncan was no exception.

"Shut up!" Duncan glanced at his wrist and found there was a little time left for himself. He needed to quickly hide the two children in the underground garage of the villa and then planned his final recourse to blackmail Sheryl.

As soon as the police hung up the phone, Sheryl's phone suddenly rang. It was the electronically converted voice again. "Mrs. Lu, are you missing your children?"

The voice Sheryl heard sounded a little breathless, which gave her a bad feeling. She didn't know what

Duncan had just done.

"Have you gotten the money? Could you let my children go?" Fear gripped her heart.

"Mrs. Lu, don't be so anxious. I think you should like to trade with me, right?"

"What do you mean?" What Sheryl worried the most still happened.

Duncan did not keep his promise!

"It's quite simple. Your husband is Charles, who is currently the CEO of Shining Company. Since you

two are wealthy, I think that 50 million for you to buy the lives of your children is a bit cheap. Don't you

think?" Duncan snorted and continued, "So this time, I don't want just much.' Another 50 million! Put

this 50 million at the agreed place just now and then call me. I swear, if you obey me this time, I will

return your son and daughter to you!"

"You know you are asking too much!" Sheryl was extremely enraged—this person even dared to ask

another 50 million.

How would she get that such amount of money at this time!

"I'm asking too much? Mrs. Lu, I think you should make it clear now who is asking too much!". Duncan

had become accustomed to an obedient Sheryl. How could he let her children that easily?

After all, Clark and Shirley were still under his control.

As long as the trump card was still in his possession, he was not afraid of anything!

After throwing out those words, Duncan then gave a heavy slap in Shirley's body, making a loud sound, which shocked Sheryl.

She heard her daughter whimpering, and she could perceive Shirley's writhing in pain.

Shirley was in pain, and she burst into tears. Because her mouth was still gagged, she could only let out a muffled cry.

The child was too scared to struggle, and she was losing control of that fear.

Frightened, she started whining. "Mmm...Mmm..." But her distressed cry only sounded like she was humming in a muffled voice.

Hearing how her daughter was suffering, Sheryl shut her eyes in anguish. She was desperate and left with no choice.

She fought the urge to decline Duncan's request, though she knew that she would have a hard time

raising 50 million in cash.

It was undeniable that the Shining Company had a great deal of money and resources, and Charles belonged to a well-to-do family. However, readying the hefty amount of cash would be subjected to the Company's turn around. And surely, no one would leave a hundred million in cold cash at home.

At this moment, she praised herself that she had chosen to coordinate with the police force.

Otherwise, one wrong move from her, that would irritate and provoke Duncan, the children might be in a dangerous situation. And she could not let that happen.

"Well, I give you my word." Sheryl pretended to promise.

"Very good. You still have an hour left. After you put the money in place, just call me. And I will tell you the exact location of your children. You can find them yourself. Don't try to call the police. You know the consequence!"

Duncan warned her. He knew Sheryl would be careful enough to follow his demands for the sake of her children's safety.

"I promise you."

Then he hung up the phone.

Duncan made the call in the underground garage after he had just put the two children in an abandoned room.

The whole place was naturally deserted due to the desolation of the villa.

And this small, single room which was initially used for parking lot charges was the only room that could be found in the garage.

It had a stuffy atmosphere, and it had no source of light. Duncan had no qualms if the two children would feel scared once he left them. He didn't care.

Since Duncan was anxious to see Vivi, he immediately locked the door.

Then darkness soon engulfed the whole room, but it did not stop Clark from struggling. He was careful enough not to create unnecessary noise. And so did Shirley.

Then Duncan placed the key in the gap just outside the door.

The plan that he carefully mapped out seemed to be happening the way he wanted it to be. He would collect the money with Vivi. After that, he would head home directly. Why would he return this forsaken place again?

As for Shirley and Clark, Sheryl would definitely come personally to save them.

In this way, he could not only extort more money but could also cut the risk of getting himself exposed.

Contemplating on the thought that his own plan was indeed perfect, Duncan found himself beaming with great satisfaction.

'It's time for Vivi to come here, ' he mused.

Coming out from the underground garage, Duncan went straight to the intersection of the villa to wait for Vivi.

Other than waiting for her, he was also anticipating for his own 50 million in cash. Nothing could be as great as this!

After all, it almost cost him a fortune to find a few people to kidnap the two children. But now, it was already irrelevant. Because the money he wasted would return to him in tenfold.

Mark quickly moved towards the interior of the villa with several people, after the phone call with the leader.

They couldn't locate the children's exact position.

And traces of Duncan were even gone.

"Mark, look at these footprints!" A special police found clues in the empty villa.

"The footprints are messy and chaotic. The kidnapper must have just transferred the children to another place. We must be more vigilant, as our identity might have been exposed." Mark suddenly got alert.

"Yes, sir!"

"Wait, I see the kidnapper!" Several of the police troops had been on the raft as they circled the area.

And they were also on high alert as they scoured the surrounding environment. A few minutes later, one of them spotted Duncan who was walking outside the villa.

As soon as he reported this, the other enforcers briskly came over into close proximity and watched Duncan cautiously.

"Sir, we found the suspected kidnapper, a male. No weapons in his hand. But we are not sure yet if there are any hidden guns. However, there are no children around the kidnapper! He is heading down the hill." After his keen observation, Mark immediately relayed the details through the headset.

"Okay, he probably goes out to pick up Vivi. The children might have been hidden by the kidnapper.

You quickly scout the whole villa and search through every nook and cranny. The children must be in the villa." The leader took this as good news.

Duncan was sauntering away in a relaxed manner; it would be safe to assume that he let down his guard. With this, it would be easier for them to find the children.

"Yes, sir!" Mark responded.

"Be sure to be vigilant in the search process, and there must be other suspects on the scene!"

"Yes, sir!"

"Duncan is on his way to pick up Vivi, and there are no children in sight. As soon as he appears in front of Vivi, Warren can immediately arrest him!" Finally, the crucial moment came after they had waited for so long.

And apparently, the police's leader was a little excited.

Chapter 1137 Let Down His Guard

Mark headed into the Beauty Mountain Villa to search for the hostages, while Warren drove Vivi to the foot of the mountain where the villa was.

"What should I do, Sir?" Vivi asked uneasily, fixing her big eyes on the policeman. She was fidgeting inside the car, not knowing what exactly she was supposed to do.

When she had been with Duncan, he was a manager in Tarsan Corporation. But now, he was a kidnapper who would do anything for money.

He was a heartless, dangerous criminal. She was terrified at the thought of going to meet him.

She even regretted hooking up with him now.

"Easy, young lady. Just be yourself and pretend like nothing has happened. Don't panic. Most

importantly, don't mention the kids," Warren instructed patiently as he stopped the car at the foot of the

mountain.

"Are you not gonna arrest him now?" Vivi asked hesitantly.

She hated to risk her life helping the police catch Duncan.

'I haven't even reached the goal I have fought for so long yet.

I don't want to die at the hands of a criminal, ' she thought.

"I will, but not now. You need to get out of the car and distract him first. I will follow you discreetly and make my move when his guard is off. If we get out of the car at the same time, he will get suspicious,"

Warren warned.

"Will I be in trouble, sir? I am scared," Vivi said, with trepidation written all over her face. After hearing

Warren's words, she was even more terrified than before.

'What if he fails to get him on time and Duncan takes me as the hostage?

I have a pretty face. What if he decides to take revenge on me and disfigures my face?

And if that happens, how am I gonna marry into a wealthy family?' Terrible thoughts raced in her mind

and she panicked.

"You are going to be in grave danger if you don't get out right now," Warren growled threateningly.

He was sure that he wouldn't have any trouble bringing a measly criminal down. He understood that

Vivi was afraid, but he knew that she would be fine. Duncan trusted her and he could easily cuff him

while the criminal was being distracted by the girl. He assumed that the kidnapper wouldn't get any

chance to hurt her.

"All right, fine. I am getting out," Vivi said, noticing the displeasure on Warren's face. 'I haven't proved to

the police that I am not Duncan's accomplice yet. It's not a good idea to bargain with the officer now, '

she mused.

Duncan stood at a distance observing the taxi through his binoculars.

Vivi got out of the car and walked to the trunk. She opened it and tried to drag the suitcase out. She grunted as she tried to lift the case, but it was too heavy for her. After several vain attempts, she eventually made it.

Duncan hadn't taken his eyes off Vivi ever since she had gotten out of the car. Even though he was watching her struggle with the suitcase, he didn't move from his place. He stayed far away and observed her.

Warren read Duncan's mind. 'He is afraid that it might be a trap. He can't afford to take any risks,' he analyzed.

But when Vivi had finally managed to get the luggage, he couldn't wait anymore.

He left his concerns behind and walked towards her.

"What took you so long, Vivi?" Duncan asked.

Vivi saw him approaching, and didn't bother to close the trunk. Instead, she pretended to be angry and said in a sullen tone, "Come here, Duncan. I need your help. It's too heavy. This stuff is killing me!"

Vivi pursed her pink lips and oozed a bewitching charm. It was always a temptation that Duncan

couldn't resist. Besides, there was a huge sum of money inside that heavy suitcase and it was all his!

He dropped all his defenses and gave in to his greed.

"Leave it to me. I did say that we should go to my apartment, but you insisted on coming over here."

Duncan feigned a whine, his mouth twisting in a perceptible smile.

"I didn't want to wait inside your apartment. I wanted to know what you were doing at a place like this.

What if you were doing something behind my back? I wanted to check on you," Vivi shot back with a

pout, throwing him a suspicious glance. She looked like an upset married woman whose husband

hadn't come home the previous night.

"What did you imagine, that I was sneaking around with another woman in this place? Don't forget that

you are my mistress. I am not seeing anyone except you," Duncan quipped. He stressed the word

"mistress" on purpose.

Vivi wasn't stupid. She knew the implied message behind Duncan's words. 'He is scoffing at me,

reminding me that I am just a woman whom he is having an affair with and that I'm not in a position to

accuse him of seeing other women.

After all, even his wife never blames him, ' she thought, basking in anger.

"Mr. Qiu, you are right. I am just your mistress. Now that you've made yourself clear, I am leaving. I will look shameless if I continue to be with you." She pretended to hiss at him as she tried to walk back to the taxi. She was secretly trying to get him closer to the officer.

Taking note of the displeased look on her face, Duncan raced forward and grabbed her hand to stop her from leaving. "Come on, Vivi, it was just a joke. I came here because I had something to do. I was worried that you might think I was seeing another woman. That's why I agreed to let you come here. I hate to be misunderstood by you," he coaxed unconsciously.

Since Duncan and Vivi had first met, she had always acted this way. But he never got sick of her. He loved how she never hid her true emotions.

She was charming, sensible, and kept him on his toes. He had considered spoiling her his whole life.

"Let's go in there. What do you say?" Vivi proposed, as she pointed to the villa. She wanted to divert Duncan's attention, while creating a chance for Warren to catch him.

"All right, let's go. I'd never keep anything from you, I promise." Duncan agreed to take her inside without any hesitation. With the heavy suitcase in one hand, he took his lover's hand in the other.

He felt like the happiest man in the world. He had both, the woman he loved and the money he needed to make her happy.

Although she had left him for a while, he could tell by her behavior that she still cared whether he was seeing someone else.

"You're so nice to me, Duncan," Vivi confessed with fake sincerity, meeting his eyes. She hoped that her fake confession would divert his attention away from the money and lower his guard.

"You dumped me, Vivi. But if you really want to get back with me, I will accept you and treat you as good as before," he said tenderly, as he fixed his eyes on the meek Vivi. Looking at her sincere expression, he thought that he had finally gotten his pride back as a man.

"Duncan, I know I made a wrong decision. I have been thinking about you all these days. You were so good to me. As for that man, he doesn't love me at all. I know you love me with all your heart. If it weren't for that man, I would never have known that you are the only one who truly loves me. I've realized my mistake. From this moment on, I will always be yours and I will never leave you again," she said affectionately.

Chapter 1138 Back Off

Vivi almost deceived herself into believing her story. But she clearly knew what she was doing.

She would never let herself fall for a criminal.

"I believe you, Vivi. I swear that I will never fail you as long as you are willing to believe in me too,"

Duncan gushed as he stopped and took hold of her hands. He basked in joy when he heard Vivi's affectionate confession.

He was completely ready to forgive Vivi for breaking up with him without the slightest hesitation.

He didn't care that she had cheated on him with another man.

At that moment, as he held her soft trembling hands, he felt like they were the only ones in the world.

As the dusk set in, the pleasant, intoxicating fragrance of flowers wafted through his nose, and the reflection of the window panes in the deserted villa danced in the light of the setting sun.

Duncan glanced around to see if there was anyone around. Then he stared obsessively at the lovely girl in his arms. Only he knew how much he wanted to pounce on Vivi and press her against the floor.

He wanted to ravage and relish her right then and there.

Ever since Vivi had left him, he hadn't seen any other women.

Not to mention, his wife was back in their hometown, far away from Y City.

As he snapped out of his daze, he dropped the luggage onto the ground. With a blank look, he reached out to unbutton Vivi's shirt.

"What are you doing, Duncan?" Vivi asked in a panic, as she caught his hand which was now touching her collarbone. 'She knows what I want. She's just playing coy, ' Duncan thought with a smirk.

But he didn't realize at the time that Vivi was waiting for Warren.

"You know what I am doing," he replied with a nasty smile. "Don't worry, Vivi. There's no one around here. It's just you and me."

He impatiently pulled her into his arms. Defeated by his sexual desire, he bit her earlobe sensually and slowly stroke her back.

It had been a long time since he had last touched a woman.

Today was a memorable day for him. He not only had his girl back, but would also have all the money he wanted. He felt like a winner.

He wanted to celebrate his special day.

As Duncan was totally engaged in making out with Vivi, Warren appeared from behind him in a flash,

seized both his arms in a powerful grasp and pressed his head against the ground. The officer swiftly took out his gun and pointed it at the criminal's head.

"Who...who are you?! What are you doing?" Duncan asked in a fluster. He was caught completely off guard, and couldn't think properly as he was pressed violently against the cold ground.

"You can stop your acting! You know what you did. Did you think that you could fool everyone and have a happy ending here?" Warren grilled him with a long face. He gave off an authoritative, stern aura which betrayed his identity as a police officer.

Duncan immediately came back to his senses. Glowering at Vivi bleakly, he huffed, "You ratted me out, didn't you?"

He was disappointed in her. It had never crossed his mind that Vivi was not really on his side even though he had entrusted her with a great deal of money.

'She never loved me. I was too naive. I thought I could change her mind and make her fall in love with me.

But this woman is as heartless as ever, ' he thought angrily.

"You can't blame me. When I went to the mall to get the money, they spotted me. I already broke up

with you! Why did you have to come to me and get me in all this trouble? I don't want to go to jail!" Vivi shouted at him hysterically.

She had wanted to get back with Duncan for comfort and wealth, not to end up in prison with him.

"I was stupid to believe you, you slut!" Duncan hissed at Vivi with a twisted face. Struggling against Warren, he even forgot that he had a gun pointed at his head.

'She broke my heart once, but I still forgave her and gave her a chance. And for that, she turned around and sold me out, ' he thought with hatred in his blood red eyes.

The more he reflected on it, the more furious he became. He wanted to strangle her. He wanted to show her the consequence of fooling him again and again.

Driven by wrath, Duncan broke free of Warren's grip and ran towards Vivi. Grabbing her by the neck, he snarled, "I am gonna kill you!"

"Let her go, or I will shoot!" Warren warned, regaining his lost balance and focusing his gun on Duncan once again.

Duncan slowly processed Warren's words and looked at the gun in his hand. He knew that he would

die at moment now.

"Put your gun down, or I will kill her!" Duncan yelled at Warren while he tightened his hold on Vivi's throat.

'I got nothing to loose anyway. I will try my luck and see where it gets me, ' he thought.

Vivi could hardly catch her breath and her face had turned red. She couldn't find her voice to even plead for mercy as he was slowly choking the life out of her.

"Hey! Calm down. Right now, you will only be sent to prison for kidnapping and extortion. But if you kill her, you will be named a murderer and will be shot dead." Warren didn't want to push a mad man, but he still needed to try his best or the woman could get very seriously hurt.

'Or worse, killed, ' he thought.

"Shut up! Drop the gun!" Duncan urged brashly. He was in no mood to hear the officer's lecture. All he wanted was to get out of there.

"All right, man. I will. Cool down." Warren succumbed to his demand for Vivi's safety.

He put his gun down slowly and raised his hands in the air. "See, I did what you asked. Now, let her

go," he said.

"Kick the gun to me. Hurry up!" Duncan demanded. He was not a fool. Once he set Vivi free, he would be chased and caught by the officer.

"If you release her now, I will seek leniency for you," Warren tried to negotiate.

He was hoping that he could talk Duncan into releasing the girl. She was wriggling in his grasp.

"Do you want to see her dead?" Duncan snarled at him and tightened his hold around Vivi's throat.

"Fine, okay! Relax! Don't hurt her." Warren yielded as he saw that Vivi's face had turned purple and she looked breathless.

"Hurry up!" Duncan cried out, squinting at the officer.

Warren glanced around quickly, but there was no sign of his fellow officers. Out of option, he kicked the gun towards Duncan.

As the gun slid towards his right foot, Duncan shouted at Warren vigilantly, "Back off!"

"Okay. Just don't hurt her!"

"Move further away!"

"Okay."

Chapter 1139 Protest

When Warren was far away from the two of them, Duncan pushed Vivi away with all of his might. He then quickly picked up the gun, along with his luggage in one go, and ran towards the basement's parking grounds.

Seeing this, Warren immediately reacted and went after Duncan. He wanted to catch him as he posed a threat to the others, especially since he had a gun. The officer was well aware that the hostages were in jeopardy once the criminal had made his escape. As Warren ran past Vivi, she immediately fell onto the ground and blacked out due to having a lack of oxygen.

"Vivi! How are you feeling? Are you okay?" Warren cried out as he kept shaking her unconscious body.

After a few seconds, Vivi fluttered her eyelashes open. She gasped for air and responded to him in a weak tone, "I...I am fine, Warren."

"Can you drive?" Warren asked her hurriedly. He was hoping that she would say yes because he didn't have any backup to help him.

After a long pause, she uttered, "Yes..." Her voice was husky and sounded as though she was very weak.

Warren realized that Vivi was still in shock about what just happened.

"Here. Take the keys and drive towards southwest. My fellow-officers are there and waiting for you. I will go catch Duncan," Warren urged. As he gave the keys to Vivi, Warren rushed to the underground parking lot hoping to catch Duncan.

Just as Vivi wanted to respond, Warren disappeared.

She was angry about what Duncan had done to her, but she didn't have the guts to stay there, or seek revenge. She neither had the energy, nor strength, to do so.

Duncan seemed to have gone mad. A vindictive look pondered on his face, which remained vivid in her mind. A cold shiver ran down her spine as she thought that he would kill her if they ever met again.

Frightened, she thought to herself, 'No, I have to leave here immediately!'

Standing up, she was still injured. Nevertheless, she was determined to get to the car and get out of there. She then sprinted towards the car and got into the driver's seat. She started the engine immediately and drove away.

"Sir, I'm afraid I've lost Duncan. He took my gun and ran towards the underground parking area. I

suspect that the children have been hidden there. I desperately need backup!" Warren said into his headset as he ran towards the parking lot.

"Mark, please go to the underground garage right now, Be careful, the criminal has a gun and I fear that the hostages might be locked up in the garage. You must keep the children safe at all cost," the leader informed Mark first. He then notified his other subordinates.

After informing all of his team members, he quickly led his men to the underground garage.

"What's happening? How about we go get more money now? I am so scared..." Sheryl said to Charles in a trembling voice. After she heard the leader's instructions, her heart grew heavier with anxiety. She had trouble catching her breath at even the slightest thought that her loving children might be in danger.

"Listen to me, Sher. Please, don't panic. Don't think about what's happening. Even if we get the ransom and give it to him, I'm sure that he won't give our children back to us anyway. We have to be smart about this. Besides, once we give him the money, there is no turning back. All we can do is trust in the police to bring back our kids," Charles said, in a bid to comfort his wife. Her eyes were red from crying. She still seemed terrified about the whole ordeal.

"It's all your fault! I told you that we couldn't call the police but you persisted to ignore me! They haven't

even caught him yet, and to make matters worse, he took away an officer's gun. So much for trusting in

the police to save our children! Can you imagine if anything bad happens to Clark and Shirley?" Sheryl

berated as tears continued to flow down her cheeks once more.

Sheryl felt helpless and apprehensive. Above all else, she was unable to hold back her feelings. She

also didn't mean to blame Charles. She knew that it wasn't his fault. 'Even if we hadn't contacted the

polic, we might have not been able to get their children back either way, ' she thought.

Charles understood exactly how his wife felt. He also felt helpless and as a means of comfort to them

both, he pulled her into his arms. He reassured her, "Don't worry. Everything is going to be okay. The

police are already here and they are going to save them. They will keep Clark and Shirley safe, Sher."

"I can't help it...I am so afraid, Charles. I don't know what to do..." Sheryl cried her heart out like a

helpless little girl.

At that moment, she was on the verge of having an emotional breakdown. She really couldn't afford to

hear any more bad news.

She felt like she was already out of options.

"Let's follow the police," Charles proposed tenderly, even though he knew that they might get into trouble after they entered the premises. However, they didn't care. They couldn't just stand by and do nothing. 'Sheryl must want to see what's going on inside too,' he thought irrationally.

If they were not going to enter, they might live in guilt for the rest of their lives and if something went wrong, it would simply be something they wouldn't be able to live with.

They should be there when the children were found, especially because they were in grave danger.

The moment Mark led his companions to the underground parking lot, Warren rushed in.

"Have you discovered the criminal yet?" Warren gasped anxiously, as he bent down while resting his hand on his knees.

"No, I fear not yet," one of the team members replied.

"Damn it!" Warren cried out in anger.

Out of the blue, a figure appeared in their site and quickly ran away.

"Freeze!" Mark shouted immediately. He knew that it was the criminal.

He loaded his handgun along with the other officers. They rushed towards the direction where Duncan disappeared.

Duncan panicked as he saw the police gaining on him. Out of options, he was forced to drop the suitcase and run forward aimlessly. After a moment, he was trapped at a dead end. He had nowhere to go and was trapped. He then paused and shouted loudly in many different directions. With a rattled look on his face, he snarled threateningly, "Get lost. Don't push me or I'll kill you all."

"Duncan, it's not too late, you know? You can surrender right now. Believe me, you don't want to do something stupid at this moment," Mark reprimanded loudly, pointing his gun right at Duncan.

"Is that so? Do you think that I still have a choice whatsoever?" Duncan snorted. "I will not be fooled by you. Let me leave now or choose to perish together here with me. If you choose to stay, we will both go down today!"

He held his gun tightly, still pointing it at the police, his body still trembling violently with fear and anxiety. Sweeping his gaze through the police warily, he yelled in a fluster, "Don't push me. All of you...I mean it!"

"Don't you want the money, Duncan Qiu? You blackmailed Sheryl for a large sum of money. I mean,

you haven't even had the chance to spend a single penny yet. Do you really want to die this way?"

Warren tried to persuade Duncan in hopes that he would rethink the situation.

"Yeah, you are right. If you let me go, I'll leave and I won't kill any of you," Duncan responded with a

sinister expression on his face. He was determined to get away from the police no matter what it took.

"Well, then...If you'd like to escape, wouldn't you want to take the money with you?" Warren asked as

he pointed at the luggage. He turned around, made his way to the suitcase and picked it up before

Duncan could get to it. "Don't you want this?" he asked as he rejoined his team.

"What the hell are you doing, Warren? Don't take any risks now! This is not the time or place!" Mark

warned Warren who was walking past Duncan as if he read his mind and was able to perceive his next

move. He didn't want to see his companion get hurt.

"Relax. It's okay," Warren returned with a reassuring smile alongside his companion. "Life is hard. All

we ever do is work to survive," he said, turning to Duncan.

"However, our job is more than that and has a different purpose. My responsibility is and has always

been to protect others. So, most of the time, I don't take my work too seriously. I don't want to get

myself killed for the sake of others either," Warren continued.

When he spoke, he stepped towards Duncan with the suitcase in hand.

"Stop! Stay where you are!" Duncan shouted in an alarming tone as his hand which held the gun started to shake. He didn't want anyone to get close to him even though the officer wasn't armed and had fifty million in cash.

"Okay, fine...I won't move. I'll just wait and talk to you here." Warren gave in as he paused for a second.

He stood looking straight in the direction where Duncan pointed his gun at.

"I elaborated this much because I was afraid of death and I only wanted to survive. After all, I have a wife and child of my own. I don't want to sacrifice my life here. I think you feel the same way, don't you?" he began.

"Stop talking rubbish to me!" Duncan snapped impatiently. Despite what he said, he didn't mind that Warren was standing right in front of him. It was almost like Duncan had let go of all his fear.

"Let's get straight to the point, Duncan. How about we make a deal? I give you fifty million and you can hold me as a hostage and leave here silently. I only have one condition, give my pistol back when you leave without hurting anyone," Warren negotiated.

Chapter 1140 Negotiation

"What?" Duncan was not convinced. The deal was too good to be true.

"Do you know what it mean for a special police to lose his gun? I have been in the SWAT team for three years now. In these past years, I have worked hard every day because I didn't have a wealthy background. The only one I can truly depend on is myself. If I don't work harder than the others, I will be replaced by young men who come after me," Warren said in a bitter tone.

"If they find out that I have lost my gun, I will be suspended or even dismissed. I can't afford to lose my job. If my wife finds out that I have lost my job, she will leave me. She wouldn't want to be with a penniless man like me."

It was difficult to decipher whether Warren's words were true or not. But Duncan began to believe him because no one could understand more than him the fear of being disliked by the love of his life after losing his job. It was the most miserable thing he had to encounter.

The middle class men of the world always suffered from similar miserable situations and had to face the same kind of agony. So Warren's words moved Duncan. He sighed with mixed feelings, "Men have been cursed with that fate."

Hearing Duncan's worn sigh, Warren knew that his words had some effect on him.

"Yes, life is not easy for people like us." Saying that, Warren turned to look at the police officer. "Mark, order the policemen to put down their guns." Warren turned back to face Duncan and said, "All these men have a good relationship with me. We had joined the SWAT team together. So they will aid me.

Actually, Duncan, it will also be in your good interest if they choose to help me."

Mark and the others slowly put down their guns as they realized that Warren's method might turn out to

have the best outcome.

He had already made some progress. Duncan began to drop his guard against them.

Since the policemen weren't armed anymore, he relaxed a bit. But he still hadn't given up on the money. "Now, bring the suitcase to me! I'm warning you, if you play any tricks on me, you will never find the kids!"

"I won't play any tricks. I promise you," Warren nodded and swore in a pretended firm voice.

He grabbed the suitcase with his left hand and raised his right hand to show that he was unarmed and reliable.

He walked towards Duncan in a slow, stable pace. No one made a sound. It was so quiet that they could hear each other's breathing.

Duncan stood still with the gun in his hand. His breathing was rapid and he was more nervous than what he was showing. He didn't want to lose his life in some deserted mountain.

He knew Vivi's true colors now. He finally understood what kind of person she really was. He wanted to survive and live a better life than her. That would be a slap in her face.

If what the police officer, Warren, said was true, he would make a correct decision and believe the officers.

After all, he figured that if he made things easy for others, things would end up being easy for him too.

If both him and the police could benefit from their cooperation, why not just cooperate?

And even if this was nothing but Warren's scheme to capture him, he wasn't afraid. He was standing with his back against the corner of the wall. The children were locked in the small room behind him. He looked sideways and saw the half-opened window of the small room.

Although the door to the small room was locked, there was a window on the other side of the room.

The window was not too big, but it could easily let an adult through.

He hadn't noticed the size of the window before now. Otherwise, he would've closed it before he had

left. But because his mind was wholly taken up by the money and Vivi at that time, he thought it

wouldn't be a problem to just let it be. So he had tied the kids up and had thrown them in the room with

the window opened.

He didn't think that the size of the window would be a threat to him.

But thinking about it now, thanks to his negligence, he had a path to escape.

As Duncan was lost in thoughts, Warren continued to move towards him.

He came closer to him, steadily closing the distance between them.

"Stop! Just push the suitcase towards me," Duncan quickly snapped out of his thoughts and ordered

Warren. After the blunder just now, Duncan had become more vigilant. After he instructed Warren to

stay back, he raised his hand and pointed his gun at the policemen, yelling, "All of you, move back!"

"Mark, it's okay. Just do what he says. He just wants to leave peacefully. He won't hurt me. Just move

back." Warren exchanged a knowing look with Mark and said this to relax Duncan.

Mark hesitated. If they moved back, Duncan might try something and Warren was likely to get hurt. A

cornered beast could be dangerous and Duncan was desperate. Any sign of sudden movement could drive him to do something stupid.

"Move back now!" Duncan yelled angrily.

Warren glanced at Mark and signalled that he was fine.

Mark narrowed his brows at the predicament. But time was short for any wise decisions to be taken and he was left with no other choice. He raised his voice and called out, "Everybody, move back!"

He chose to believe in Warren.

He knew that this act would mean putting Warren in immediate danger, but if he didn't take that risk, at least a few policemen would lose their lives when Duncan finally went out of control. Moreover, he might escape and continue to run and hurt more citizens in the city.

That was not a desirable outcome.

Back when they had chosen to become a part of the special police force, they had known that they would face all kinds of dangers in order to complete their missions. And they had already made up their minds to devote their lives whenever and wherever the country needed.

Their lives were not a joyous adventure.

They had dedicated their lives to ensure the safety of the people.

After all, someone had to do it. And they were glad that it was them.

"Yes, Sir!" the policemen answered in unison. They were going through complicated feelings now. But after weighing the scales, they knew what they had to do.

Duncan started to calm down when he saw the policemen put distance between them and him. If they kept their word and really released him, he would get the chance to start over.

But before he could run away, he wanted to make sure that his survival would be followed by a carefree life.

"Push the suitcase towards me!" he urged Warren, who hadn't yet done what he had asked.

"Yes, I will. Please stay calm," Warren said in a faint voice to set Duncan's mind at ease.

He gently pushed the case towards Duncan. The case had wheels on it; it slid slowly towards Duncan and was finally in his reach.

Duncan was still pointing his gun at Warren's head. Although there was a short distance between him and Warren, if he fired the gun, it would easily find its mark.

Without looking down at the suitcase, he pulled it to his side with one hand. He then asked Warren in a

cold tone, "You are from the special force. You must have handcuffs with you, right?"